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A  
DISSERTATION

R. J. ON THE *Bakeman*

MALIGNANT, ULCEROUS  
SORE-THROAT.

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BY

JOHN HUXHAM, M. D.

Fellow of the *Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh*, and of the *Royal Society at London*.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for J. HINTON, at the *King's-Arms*  
in *Newgate-Street*. 1757.

[ Price One Shilling. ]

DISSERTATION

ON THE

RIGHTS OF THE

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To the very Worthy

P R E S I D E N T,

A N D

F E L L O W S,

O F T H E

Royal College of Physicians

E D I N B U R G H,

Prosperity !

GENTLEMEN !



*Beg Leave to inscribe to  
you this small Dissertation  
on the Malignant, Ulcer-  
ous Sore-Throat, in Testi-  
mony of my great Respect and Grati-  
tude*

## DEDICATION.

*tude for the Honour you have done me in electing me a Fellow of your very learned Society. ---- I shall endeavour, to the utmost of my Power, to approve myself worthy of your Choice.*

I am, GENTLEMEN,

your highly obliged,

and most obedient,

humble Servant,

John Huxham.





A

# DISSERTATION

ON THE

Malignant Ulcerous SORE-THROAT.



SINCE the Publication of my *Essay on Fevers*, I have had frequent Opportunities of making Observations on a Disease of the putrid, malignant Kind, which abundantly confirm my Notions of the Cause and Cure of malignant pestilential Fevers.—I mean what is called the *Angina maligna*, or *Ulcerous Sore-Throat*, which hath appeared up and down this Kingdom for several Years,

B

in

in some Places very common and exceedingly fatal, especially to Children.

The first accurate Account we had of this Distemper in *England* was from the very ingenious Dr. *Fothergill*, in 1748.—But several of the *Spanish* and *Italian Physicians* have described exactly such a Kind of Disease, as raging with great Violence and Mortality in *Spain*, and several Parts of *Italy*, in the Beginning of the last Century.—Perhaps the *Syrian* and *Ægyptian Ulcers* mentioned by *Aretæus Cappadox*, and the *pestilent ulcerated Tonsils*, we read of in *Ætius Amidenus*, were of this Nature;—and truly some of the *Scarlet Fevers*, mentioned by *Morton*, seem not much unlike it.

It is not above six, or seven Years since I met with it in this Town and Neighbourhood, though it raged with great Fatality in and about *Loft-witbiel*,



*withiel, St. Austle, Fowye, and Lif-  
keard*, a Year or two before. —  
From the latter Part of the Year  
1751 to *May* 1753 it was very com-  
mon in this Town, and Places ad-  
jacent, especially in 1752, and not  
only carried off Children, but several  
Adults.

As a faithful and accurate Histo-  
ry of Diseases, their various Symp-  
toms, and Methods of Cure, is the  
most effectual Way of promoting the  
Art of Healing, Physicians should  
describe with the utmost Care the  
Diseases they would treat of, and the  
good and bad Effects of any Method,  
or Medicines, they have used to re-  
move them. — But in a more parti-  
cular Manner is this necessary when  
any new, or uncommon Distem-  
per occurs, of which the peculiar  
pathognomonic and diagnostic Signs  
should be carefully laid down, and  
a particular Account given of what

Evacuations, Regimen, and Medicines were useful, or hurtful, in it. — And this Method I shall endeavour to pursue with the utmost Attention in the following Account.

A vast Quantity of Rain fell during the Year 1751, the Summer particularly was, in general, uncommonly wet, cold and frequently stormy. — At the Beginning of *June* however we had exceeding hot Weather, and some very sultry Days also in *July* and *August*; the Atmosphere was almost always thick and moist, but the Barometer low commonly. — The Fruits of the Earth were crude, watery, and insipid; the Harvest was excessively bad, and the Grain of all Kinds suffered greatly. — Notwithstanding this we had but little Sickness, at least no very epidemical Distemper: But the Small-pox (brought in by *Conway's Regiment*, in *May*) spread in this  
Town



Town considerably in *July* and *August*; and there were then several putrid and miliary Fevers, in the southern Parts of this County. — Indeed, though we were not here very sickly, yet hypochondriacal and hysteric Disorders greatly prevailed, and there was a Kind of universal Inactivity and Lowness of Spirits every where.

The Small-pox became much more common in the Autumn, and of a much worse Kind than they were at their first Appearance, and about the Mid-winter were very epidemic and fatal.—In the mean Time there were Abundance of Catarrhs, mucous and inflammatory Sore-Throats, some Pleurifies and Peripneumonies; and commonly Eruptions of the erysipelalous, or pustular Kind, attended all these Disorders.

The Weather still continued wet, and often very boisterous, the Wind various. — *December* was a cold

Month, but wet from the 15th to the 25th.—The same Diseases continued, and about the End of the Year were several malignant ulcerous Sore-Throats up and down.

The Year 1752 began cold, wet, and frequently stormy, the Wind most commonly from the East, verging however considerably now to the North, now to the South; the Barometer often very low, though at the Beginning of *January* very high, with sharp Frost.—The Small-pox continued epidemic, often crude, crystalline, and undigested to the very End, sometimes very confluent, small and sessile; some black and bloody, and now and then attended with Petechiæ.—Pleuroperipneumonies, and Rheumatisms, were not uncommon; catarrhal and mucous Squinzies with much Cough, and a large thin Spitting, were very rife; and now also there were several malignant



lignant dangerous Sore-Throats with no small Degree of Fever.

Both at the Beginning, and End, of *February*, the Mercury was high, and the Air clear, dry, and frosty; but, from the 8th to the 21st, there was much Rain with the Wind generally at South. — Many Small-pox were in the Town, though few in the Neighbourhood; several Pleurifies, Peripneumonies, and Rheumatisms, a vast Quantity of catarrhal, mucous Sore-Throats, and many inflammatory Squinzies; and still some of the malignant Kind.

The Weather was pretty cold and dry in *March*, especially at the Beginning, and latter End; and the Barometer high, at no Time very low. — The Small-pox grew more mild, and much less frequent; — the other Diseases also less common, but more inflammatory; no malignant Sore-Throats: Many were severely tor-

mented with Coughs, and obstinate  
asthmatic Disorders. — The Blood  
now drawn was commonly more  
dense and viscid than it had been for  
many Months.

The north-east Wind prevailed at  
the Beginning of *April*, and rendered  
the Air dry, clear, and pretty cold ;  
the Baroscope high : A showery Sea-  
son succeeded for four, or five, Days,  
and then the dry north-east Wind  
return'd, from the 21<sup>st</sup> it was  
W. N. W.—The Small-pox still up  
and down, some of a bad Sort : Ma-  
ny Pleurifies, and Peripneumonies,  
Rheumatism, Jaundice, and Drop-  
sy frequent ; severe Coughs every  
where : A vast many are troubled  
with *Worms*, even Adults, as well as  
Children.

Though we had some agreeable  
Weather in *May*, the Summer was  
wet, cold, and uncomfortable ; the  
Atmosphere thick and foggy, the  
Barometer seldom high, the S. W.  
and



and N. W. Winds were much the most frequent. The Fruits of the Earth did not ripen well, but were watery and insipid; a bad Harvest, bad Grain.—A great Dejection of Spirits, Listlessness, and Lassitude were universally complained of.—The Small-pox became much more numerous in *June*, and were epidemic all the Summer, and rather of a worse Kind than in the Spring, not only here, but every-where in the Neighbourhood; they were frequently confluent, very small, and sometimes black, attended with Hæmorrhages of the Nose, especially in Children; but the Petechiæ were much less common than I expected; sometimes they were very crude, crystalline, and indigested, running into large Blisters, eroding the Skin greatly.—Rheumatisms, Gout, and Coughs were in vastly greater Plenty than usual at this Time of the Year.

Now also exactly such a Kind of  
Fever,

Fever, as I called, in my *1st Volume of Epidemics, Febris anginosa*, raged up and down with great Violence, attended with scarlet or pustular Eruptions, and succeeded with great Itching and Desquamation of the Cuticle. In this the Pulse was commonly hard, quick, and small, the Breathing hot, and laborious, with great Oppression on the Præcordia, the Urine sometimes crude and pale, sometimes high-coloured and turbid, but without Sediment; a Delirium generally came on soon.—The Sick commonly bore Bleeding at the Beginning with Advantage, and the Blood was often fizy, though much less so in general than in Squinzies of the truly inflammatory Kind; they very seldom however admitted of large Bleeding, scarce indeed of a second.

In all Sorts of Fevers there was a surprizing Disposition to Eruptions  
of



of some Kind or other, to Sweats, Soreness of Throat and Aphæ.—The Small-pox were more fatal in *August*, and sometimes attended with a very dangerous Ulceration in the Throat, and Difficulty of Swallowing.—Indeed the malignant ulcerous Sore-Throat was now also frequent, probably sometimes complicated with the Small-pox.

The Autumn was much more fair, and comfortable, than the Summer, particularly the Month of *October* was for the greater Part beautiful and serene, the Mercury high; however, the Atmosphere was generally thick, and sometimes very moist, the Wind commonly from the eastern Quarters: *November* was less wet and stormy than usual, and in general warm; the Barometer pretty high, but the Air thick and humid.—At the Beginning of *December* the Quick-silver was exceeding high, the Air

2 cold

cold and dry, Wind E. N. E; but from the 6th to the 26th very wet and foggy, sometimes boisterous, and the Barometer sunk very much; towards the End the Easterly Wind returned, raised the Mercury, and restored fine, cold Weather.

During this Period the Small-pox continued epidemic every where, and, though somewhat more mild in *September* and *October*, yet here and there they were very confluent, attended with Spots and Hæmorrhages of the Nose.—In *December* they were often crude, numerous, and undigested to the last, running into very large Vesications, deeply eroding the subjacent Parts: the Crusts of the black confluent many Times remained for at least thirty Days after the Eruption.—The *anginose Fever* also still continued—and we had several of the *malignant Sore-Throats* in *September*, many more in *October*,  
in



in *November* and *December* they were exceeding common in this *Town*, at the *Dock*, and all around us, and carried off a great many Adults, as well as Children. — During this Time likewise catarrhal, mucous Sore-Throats were innumerable, but with little Severity, or Danger.—In *October* particularly, after a few Days of foggy, stormy, rainy Weather, we had from the 12th to the 16th very cold Mornings, and immense hoar Frosts with some Ice, in which Time Hundreds of People were at once seized with a Cough, Sore-Throat, and a great Defluxion from the Nose, Eyes, and Mouth, attended with a slight Fever, and more, or less, of a *Rash*, several with great *Fluxes* of the *Belly*.—Coughs, Catarrhs, Rheumatisms and Fluxes were excessively common in *November* and *December*, especially catarrhal Coughs, with which almost every one was in some Degree trou-

troubled; and yet there were very few Peripneumonies, or Pleurifies; however, Abundance fell into a pulmonary Phthisis, and many died tabid.

For many Months past we had scarce the slightest Fever but it was attended with a Sore-Throat, Aphæ, and some Kind of cuticular Eruption, and that too even in pleuritic and peripneumonic Disorders — so greatly did the Constitution of the Air, &c. seem disposed to produce Eruptions in all Sorts of feverish Indispositions: — The Blood drawn from the Diseased, during all this Time, hath been very rarely viscid, but generally florid seemingly, especially at the very Beginning of the Malady, and of a very loose Texture.

Thus ended the Year 1752. — The following Part of the Winter, and succeeding Spring, was very cold and wet; the cold Weather continued



nued till the Middle of *May*, and made a very backward Spring. Then came on very fine hot Weather, and we had the warmest and most beautiful Summer, that hath been known for many Years.—The Small-pox, and both catarrhal and malignant Squinzies grew less frequent, and less fatal, from *January* to *May*, when both intirely ceased.—As the Spring advanced, we had several Pleurifies, Peripneumonies, and a vast Number of catarrhal Disorders:—The Blood now drawn was much more dense and viscid in general than had been observed for many Months before.

I have given this short Account of the Constitution of the Air and Diseases, during this Period, in which Sore-Throats of one Kind, or another, were much more frequent than I ever before remember, and with which also cuticular Eruptions of various Sorts were exceedingly common,

mon, and this too even in the slightest Fevers that happened.—And this I have particularly done, that perhaps from it some rational Conjectures of ~~that~~ Cause and Nature of such Disorders may be made.—Did the long cold and wet Seasons occasion them, by hindering a due and regular Perspiration? The suppressed Perspirabile grows very acrid, and productive at length of a Variety of Diseases, particularly such as pass under the general Name of Scorbutic, as well as more immediately of Catarrhs, Squinzies, Peripneumonies, Fluxes, Colics, &c. which are notoriously the Effects of suppressed Perspiration.—But my present Design is not to enter into Disquisitions of this Nature.—I proceed therefore to give the most exact Account, I possibly can, of the *Malignant, Ulcerous Sore-Throat*, as it raged here during the Period above described,



bed, especially in 1752.—To which I shall subjoin the Method of Cure I found most successful.

The *Attack* of this Disease was very different in different Persons.—Sometimes a Rigor, with some Fulness and Soreness of the Throat, and painful Stiffness of the Neck, were the very first Symptoms complained of.—Sometimes alternate Chills and Heats, with some Degree of Head-ach, Giddiness, or Drowsiness, ushered in the Distemper.—It seized others with much more feverish Symptoms, great Pain of the Head, Back, and Limbs, a vast Oppression on the Præcordia, and continual Sighing.—Some grown Persons, on the contrary, moved about for a Day, or two, neither sick or well, as it were, but under Uneasiness and Anxiety till they were obliged to lie for it. Thus various was the Disease at the *Onset*. But

it commonly began with Chills and Heats, Load and Pain of the Head, Soreness of Throat and Hoarseness, some Cough, Sickness at Stomach, frequent Vomiting and Purging, in Children especially, which were sometimes very severe; though a contrary State was more common to the Adult.—There was in all a very great Dejection of Spirits, very sudden Weakness, great Heaviness on the Breast, and Faintness, from the very Beginning.—The Pulse in general was quick, small and fluttering, though sometimes heavy and undose. — The Urine commonly pale, thin and crude, however, in many grown Persons in small Quantities, and high-coloured, or like turbid Whey.—The Eyes were heavy, reddish, and as it were weeping, —the Countenance very often full, flushed and bloated, though sometimes pale and sunk.



How slight soever the Disorder might appear in the Day-time, at Night the Symptoms became greatly aggravated, and the feverish Habit very much encreased, nay, sometimes a Delirium came on the very first Night; and this Exacerbation constantly returned in the Evening thro' the whole Course of the Disease.— Indeed, when it was considerably on the Decline, I have been often pretty much surprized to find my Patient had passed the whole Night in a Phrenzy, whom I had left tolerably cool and sedate in the Day.

Some few Hours after the Seizure, and sometimes cotemporary with it, a Swelling and Soreness of the Throat was perceived, and the Tonfils became very tumid and inflamed, and many times the parotid and maxillary Glands swelled very much, and very suddenly, even at the very Begining; sometimes so

much as even to threaten Strangulation. The Fauces also very soon appeared of a high florid Red, or rather of a bright Crimfon Colour, very shining and glossy; and most commonly on the *Uvula*, *Tonsils*, *Velum Palatinum*, and back Part of the *Pharynx*, several whitish, or Ash-coloured Spots appeared scattered up and down, which oftentimes encreased very fast, and soon covered one, or both the *Tonsils*, *Uvula*, &c: these in Event proved the *Sloughs* of superficial Ulcers (which sometimes however eat very deep into the Parts). The Tongue at this Time, though only white and moist at the Top, was very foul at the Root, and covered with a thick yellowish, or brown Coat.—The Breath also now began to be very nauseous, which offensive Smell encreased hourly, and in some became at length intolerable,



ble, and that too sometimes even to the Patients themselves.

The second, or third Day, every Symptom became much more aggravated, and the Fever much more considerable, and those, that had struggled with it tolerably well for thirty or forty Hours, were forced to submit.—The Restlessness and Anxiety greatly encreased, as well as the Difficulty in Swallowing.—The Head was very giddy, pained, and loaded; there was generally more or less of a Delirium, sometimes a Per-  
vigilium and perpetual Phrenzy, tho' others lay very stupid, but often starting and muttering to themselves.—The Skin was very hot, dry and rough; there was very rarely any Disposition to sweat. The Urine pale, thin, crude, often yellowish, and turbid. Sometimes a Vomiting was urgent, and sometimes a very great Loosness, in Children particularly.

larly. The Sloughs were now much enlarged, and of a darker Colour, and the furrounding Parts tended much more to a livid Hue.—The Breathing became much more difficult, with a Kind of a *rattling Stertor*, as if the Patient was actually strangling, the Voice being exceeding hoarse and hollow, exactly resembling that from *venereal Ulcers in the Fauces*; this Noise in Speaking and Breathing was so peculiar, that any Person in the least conversant with the Disease might easily know it by this odd Noise; from whence indeed the *Spanish Physicians* gave it the Name of *Garotillo*, expressing the Noise such make as are strangling with a Rope.—I never observed in one of them the shrill, barking Noise, that we frequently hear in inflammatory Squin-zies. The Breath of all the Diseased was very nauseous, of some insufferably



sufferably foetid, especially in the Advance of the Distemper to a Crisis; and many about the fourth or fifth Day spit off a vast Quantity of stinking, purulent Mucus, tinged sometimes with Blood, and sometimes the Matter was quite livid, and of an abominable Smell. The Nostrils likewise in many were greatly inflamed and excoriated, continually dripping down a most sharp *Ichor*, or *sanious Matter*, so excessively acrid, that it not only corroded the Lips, Cheeks, and Hands of the Children, that laboured under the Disease, but even the Fingers and Arms of the very Nurses, that attended them: As this Ulceration of the Nostrils came on, it commonly caused an almost incessant Sneezing in the Children, but few Adults were affected with it, at least to any considerable Degree. It was surprizing what Quantities of Matter

some Children discharged this Way, which they would often rub on their Face, Hands and Arms, and blister them all over. — A sudden Stoppage of this Rheum from the Mouth and Nostrils actually choaked several Children; and some swallowed such Quantities of it, as occasioned Excoriations of the Intestines, violent Gripings, Dysentery, &c; nay, even Excoriations of the Anus and Buttocks.—Not only the Nostrils, Fauces, &c. were greatly affected by this extremely sharp Matter, but the Wind-pipe itself was sometimes much corroded by it, and Pieces of its internal Membrane were spit up, with much Blood and Corruption, and the Patients lingered on for a considerable Time, and at length died tabid; tho' there were more frequent Instances of its falling more suddenly and violently on  
the



the Lungs, and killing in a peripneumonic Manner.

I was astonished sometimes to see several swallow with tolerable Ease, though the Tumour of the Tonsils and Throat, the Quantity of thick Mucus, and the rattling Noise in breathing, were very terrible; which I think pretty clearly shews, that this malignant Squinzey was more from the Acrimony and Abundance of the Humours than the Violence of the Inflammation.

Most commonly the *Angina* came on before the *Exanthemata*, but many times the cuticular Eruption appeared before the Sore-Throat, and was sometimes very considerable, though there was little, or no Pain in the Fauces; on the contrary, a very severe Angina seized some Patients, that had no Manner of Eruption, and yet, even in these Cases, a very great Itching and Desquamation

tion

tion of the Skin sometimes ensued, but this was chiefly in grown Persons, very rarely in Children.—In general, however, a very considerable *Efflorescence* broke out on the Surface of the Body, particularly in Children, and it most commonly happened the second, third, or fourth Day; sometimes it was partial, sometimes it covered almost the whole Body, tho' very seldom on the Face: Sometimes it was of an *Erysipelatous* Kind, sometimes more *pustular*; the Pustules were frequently very eminent, and of a deep, fiery, red Colour, particularly on the Breast and Arms, but oftentimes they were very small, and might be better felt than seen, and gave a very odd Kind of Roughness to the Skin. The Colour of the Efflorescence was commonly of a Crimson Hue, or as if the Skin had been smeared over with *Juice of Raspberries*, and this even to  
the



the Fingers Ends ; and the Skin appeared inflamed and swoln as it were, the Arms, Hands and Fingers were often evidently so, and very stiff, and somewhat painful. — This Crimson Colour of the Skin seemed indeed peculiar to this Disease. — Though the Eruption seldom failed of giving some manifest Relief to the Patient, as to Anxiety, Sicknes at Stomach, Vomiting, Purging, &c. yet I observed an universal, fiery Eruption on some Persons, without the least Abatement of the Symptoms, nay, almost every Symptom seemed more aggravated, particularly the Fever, Load at Breast, Anxiety, Delirium ; and I knew more than one, or two Patients die in the most raging Phrenzy, covered with the most universal, fiery Rash, I ever saw : So that, as in the highly confluent Small-pox, it seemed only to de-

note

note the *Quantity of the Disease*, as I may term it.

I had under my Care a young Gentleman, about twelve Years of Age, whose Tongue, Fauces, and Tonfils were as black as Ink, and he swallowed with extream Difficulty; he continually spit off immense Quantities of a black, sanious, and very foetid Matter for at least eight or ten Days—about the seventh Day, his Fever being somewhat abated, he fell into a bloody Dyfentery, tho' the bloody, sanious, foetid Expectoration still continued with a most violent Cough.—He at length indeed got over it, to the very great Surprize of every one that saw him.—Now in this Patient, as severe and universal a *Rash* broke out upon him the second and third Day, as I ever met with, and the Itching of his Skin was so intolerable, that he tore it all over his Body in a most shocking



shocking Manner ; yet this very great and timely Eruption very little relieved his Fever and Phrenzy, or prevented the other dreadful Symptoms mentioned.

An early and kindly Eruption, however, was most commonly a very good Omen, and, when succeeded by a very copious Desquamation of the Cuticle, one of the most favourable Symptoms that occurred ; but when the Eruption turned of a dusky or livid Colour, or prematurely or suddenly receded, every Symptom grew worse, and the utmost Danger impended, especially if purple, or black, Spots appeared up and down, as sometimes happened ; the Urine grew limpid, and Convulsions came on, or a fatal Suffocation soon closed the Tragedy.

The Disease was generally at the Height about the *fifth* or *sixth* Day in young Persons, in the elder not so soon,

foon, and the *Crisis* many times was not till the *eleventh* or *twelfth*, and then very imperfect: Some Adults however were carried off in two or three Days, the Distemper either falling on the Lungs, and killing in a peripneumonic Manner, or on the Brain, and the Patient either died raving, or comatose.—In some the Disease brought on a very troublesome Cough, purulent Expectoration, Hæmoptoë and Hectic, in which they lingered on for several Weeks, and then died tabid.

If a gentle easy Sweat came on the third or fourth Day, if the Pulse became more slow, firm, and equal; if the Sloughs of the Fauces cast off in a kindly Manner, and appeared at the Bottom tolerably clean and florid; if the Breathing was more soft and free, and some Degree of Vigour and Quickness returned in the Eyes, all was well, and a salutary



tary Crisis followed soon by a Continuance of the Sweat, and a turbid, subsiding, farinaceous Urine, a plentiful Expectoration, and a very large Desquamation of the Cuticle.—But if a Rigor came on, and the Exanthemata suddenly disappeared, or turned livid; if the Pulse grew very small and quick, and the Skin remained hot and parched as it were, the Breathing more difficult, the Eyes dead and glassy, the Urine pale and limpid, a Phrenzy or Coma succeeded, with a coldish, clammy Sweat on the Face, or Extremities, Life was despaired of, especially if a *Singultus* and *Choaking*, or *Gulphing* in the Throat attended, with sudden, liquid, involuntary, livid Stools, intolerably foetid.—In some few Patients I observed, some Time before the fatal Period, not only the Face bloated, fallow, shining and greasy as it were, but the whole Neck vast-  
ly

ly fwoln, and of a cadaverous Look ; and even the whole Body became, in some Degree, œdematous, and the Impreffion of a Finger would remain fixed in a Part, the Skin not rifing again as ufual ; an Indication, that the Blood ftagnated in the Capillaries, and that the Elasticity of the Fibres was quite loft.

As there were fo many different Kinds of Squinzies and eruptive Diforders, during the Period, in which the malignant ulcerous Sore-Throat raged, the Likeneffs of the Symptoms, at the very Begining of thefe various Difeaies, made it not a little difficult, to the younger and lefs experienced Practitioners epecially, to know what Methods to purfue at the *Onfet* ; particularly as to the common Evacuations ; feeing it was now certain, from fufficient Experience, that in what is called the *malignant, ulcerous Sore-Throat,*



*Throat*, Bleeding and Purging, to any Degree at least, were utterly improper.

Tho' I really think our *Gentlemen in the Medical Way*, that practise in this Part of the Kingdom, are in general as careful, capable, and judicious as in most Parts of *England*, yet I took some Pains with them to make them comprehend the Nature of this singular and uncommon Distemper, and to distinguish it aright from some other reigning Disorders, that bore no small Resemblance to it.—And having desired them to attend to the small, quick, unequal, fluttering Pulse at the Attack of this malignant Squinzey, though indeed it was sometimes full and undose, but even then heavy and unequal—to the sudden great Dejection of Spirits and Strength—perpetual Anxiety, Sighing, and great Oppression on the Præcordia—heavy, dull, wa-  
D tery,

tery, and as it were weeping Eye—pale, crude, thin Urine, tho' often turbid, like Whey—to the whitish, but commonly moist Tongue, tho' considerably furred near the Root—to the shining, crimson Colour of the Fauces, with interspersed white, or ash-coloured Spots or Blotches, with a nauseous and sometimes very foetid Breath—to the scarlet or crimson Efflorescence (in some erysipelalous, in others pustular) on the Hands, Arms, Neck, Breast, &c.—Symptoms that attended this Disease, even on the very first Days; they distinguished better, proceeded with more Caution, and with greater Success.—I met with too many Instances before, of rash, large Bleeding and Purging in this Distemper, nay, some were weak enough to tell me the Blood, they had drawn, was very *fine* and *rich*; *florid* truly I found it as *Lamb's Blood*, but so soft and  
loose



loose that you might cut it with a Feather, giving off little or no *Serum*, but having exactly such an Appearance as when *Spirit of Hartsborn* is poured to the Blood, just as it runs from the Vein, which prevents its natural Coagulation.

I will not say but that, in some plethoric adult Persons, some Blood may be drawn at the very Beginning of this Disease, and I have in some few ordered it with Advantage, particularly as to the *anginose Symptoms*, and where the Difficulty of Breathing also was considerable; but I must say, a Repetition of the Bleeding to any considerable Degree is extremely detrimental, where the first Blood especially was of such a loose and soft Texture; for the second or third will be always found a *mere sanious Gore*, as I have too often noted—nay, sometimes I have observed the first Blood drawn covered

with a very *thin, whitish, or Lead-coloured Skin*, pretty tenacious; but immediately underneath it was a *greenish, soft Kind of Jelly*, and at Bottom a very loose, *black Crassamentum*, scarce at all cohering.—

This Appearance of the Blood, however, as much forbids further Bleeding as that above described, and is mostly observed when there is a throbbing Pulse, and great Heat at the Access of the Distemper.— I profess I was myself not a little mistaken in two or three Cases at the first breaking out of this Fever; one of them I took for a true Peripneumony, but the Sore-Throat, Scarlet Eruption, Stench of the Breath, and even Petechiæ very soon coming on, too plainly convinced me what was in Truth the Disease.

I have very often met with this buffy, or fizy, Appearance of the Blood in the Beginning of malignant Fevers,



Fevers, and yet Blood, drawn two or three Days after from the very same Persons, hath been quite loose, dissolved and sanious as it were.—Too many Instances of this very lately occurred to me amongst the *French Captives here*, who died by *Dozens* of a *contagious, pestilential Fever*, very frequently attended with *Petechiæ*, and a bloody *Dysentery*.—In this Fever (as well as all others) the *French Surgeons* bled of Course every Day, or at least every other Day.—And I several times saw the Blood of some of the *Officers* (thus treated) a mere *sanious Gore* on the third or fourth Bleeding, tho' considerably fizy at the first.—And yet so preposterous was their Practice, that, at the same time they were so busy with the *Lancet*, they gorged *their Patients with the strongest Bouillon, that Beef, Mutton, &c. could make*, and this too tho' they were

in a constant Delirium, were covered with black or purple Spots, and had their Tongues as black as Ink, and as dry and rough as a Pumice-stone. — I am very certain great Numbers fell a Sacrifice to this absurd Practice.

This buffy Appearance of the Blood, at the very Beginning of contagious, pestilential Fevers, doth not invalidate what I have said, in my *Essay on Fevers*, of the Effect of *contagious Effluvia* on the Blood in such Fevers, but rather confirms it: — for tho' they tend to dissolve, and actually at length do destroy the *Crisis* of the Blood, yet Persons of a very viscid, dense State of Blood, may be seized with a contagious, malignant Fever, and the Blood may appear very fizy and buffy on Bleeding at the very *Attack*, but, notwithstanding this, the Action of the *contagious Ferment* (if I may be allowed  
the



the Expression) will more and more dissolve the Blood, and at last render it a mere *sanious Putrilage*, and so it will appear on subsequent Bleedings. — And therefore, where there is just Reason to fear a contagious Malignity in a Fever, we should proceed with the utmost Caution as to repeated Bleeding, especially as it will be constantly found, that the Pulse, as well as the Strength, sink vastly after the second or third Bleeding, and truly sometimes very surprizingly after the first.

But to return to my Subject. — Whenever I was called to Persons seized with this Malady, at the very Beginning, I generally, instead of Bleeding, ordered a Clyster of Milk, Sugar and Salt to be injected to unload the Intestines, especially if the Patient was costive. — But, when a Purging attends the Attack, a few Grains of *torrified Rhubarb* with *Spe-*

*cies è Scordio, Decoët. alb. &c.* are proper; and if the Diarrhœa is profuse, a Spoonful or two of *Decoët. Fracastorii Fulleri* may be frequently given, which is, in such Cases, a very efficacious Medicine.—If Nausea and Vomiting were urgent, I ordered a gentle *Emetic*, especially for Adults, which was so far from aggravating the Pain of the Throat, as might be imagined, that it generally greatly relieved it—nay, in Children it was often necessary to make them puke frequently with a little *Oxymel. Scillit. Essence of Antimony*, or the like, otherwise the vast Amass of tenacious Mucus would quite choak them.

I then immediately put the Patient on a *saline Mixture of Salt of Wormwood*, or *volatile Salt of Harts-horn*, and *Juice of Lemon* with *Aq. Alexiter. Simpl.* to which was added *Pulv. Contrayerv. C.* with a small



Quantity of *Myrrh* and *Saffron*; or these last were given in a *Bolus*, with a few Grains of *Nitre*, if the Fever ran pretty high — the Addition also of a Grain or two of *Camphire* was very useful for the Adult, where the Stomach would bear it; when it would not, I used *Julep è Camphor.* or *Acetum Camphoratum* with *Syrup* of *black Currants*, *Rasberries*, or the like. — The second or third Day, to the saline Mixture, or a temperate cordial Julep, I added some of my *Tinct. Cort. Peruvian. Alexipharmac.* which, at this Time of the Disease, I found greatly preferable to the *Bark* in Substance; as it much more tends to promote the Eruption of the Exanthemata, and doth not by far so much hinder the Coming on of Sweats, which at all Times of this Distemper are of the highest Service, provided they are gentle, uniform, and universal. — Indeed it was with  
great

great Difficulty the Sick could be brought to sweat at all, but whenever moderate, equally diffused Sweats came on the third, fourth, or fifth Day, or even later, they were critical and salutary, the Urine grew immediately more concocted, and forthwith deposited a very large Quantity of *Clay-coloured*, or *pale lateritious Sediment*, though before crude, thin, or limpid; and therefore I always endeavoured to promote them by soft, easy Diaphoretics, and plentiful Dilution with Barley-water, thin Whey, Gruel, Tea, or the like.— I do not remember I had one Patient miscarry, who fell into soft, easy, universal Sweats, though the Itching, that sometimes came on with them, was almost intolerable, but generally the Sweat soon abated the Itching; at least it constantly lessened the Fever; and the Purging (if there was any) immediately ceased; the



Tumour of the Neck, Parotids, &c. subsided greatly also on the Appearance of a kindly plentiful Diaphoresis: The Sweats were commonly very rank and fœtid, and that even in Children.

I commonly gave *Elixir Vitrioli* with the *Tincture* of the *Bark* (except to very young Children) which is an excellent *anti-putrescent Alexipharmac*; and I frequently ordered the *Elixir* to be taken out of an *Infusion* of a roasted *Seville-orange* in *Claret*, or *red Port-wine* and *Water*, which is a very pleasant and not an ineffectual Composition.

There was an absolute Necessity of washing out the Mouth and Fauces very frequently—the *Gargle*, I commonly ordered, was a *Decoction* of *Figs*, *red Rose-leaves*, *Myrrh* and *Honey* in *rough Cyder*, and a thin *Mucilage* of *Quince-seeds* with *Syrup* of *Rasberries*, or *black Currants*; and

and a little *Tincture of Myrrh per se*, and *Spirit of Vitriol*, was to be taken by Spoonfuls every now and then, especially after *Gargling*.—And I also directed the *Fumes of red Rose-leaves, Chamomile-flowers, Myrrh, and Camphire*, boiled in *Vinegar*, to be drawn in with the Breath very often, as hot as the Patients could well bear it, which gave very great and speedy Relief.

Though the Swelling of the Neck, parotid Glands, &c. would sometimes come on so sudden, great and violent, as to endanger a Suffocation, yet in general I took this external Tumour to be partly critical, and therefore endeavoured to promote it by *acrid Cataplasms, Blisters, &c.* nay I have several Times blistered the Throat from Ear to Ear with great Success.—These Applications are useful in common Squinzeys; much more so in this, where  
the



the Humours were so exceeding sharp and malignant.

As there was frequently a very great Tension and Tumour of the Belly, and at the same Time also some Degree of a Suppression of Urine, an *emollient Fodus* with some of the *Carminative Seeds*, or a few *Chamomile-flowers* boiled in *Milk* and *Water*, and a Clyster of the same with *Salt* and *Sugar*, were necessary to promote the Discharge of Stool, Wind and Urine; which gave immediate Ease to the Bowels, and withall greatly facilitated the Respiration, by giving a more *free Play* to the *Diaphragm*. — Indeed if the Abdomen was very tense, and the Patient costive, about the fifth, or sixth Day, I generally gave a *Dose* of *Rhubarb*, *Manna*, or *lenitive Electuary* — and after that commonly the *Bark* in *Substance*; but I never so ordered it when the Belly was very tumid and consti-

constipated, nor until some Signs of *Coction*, or a begining *Desquamation* of the *Cuticle* appeared; for I found my *Tincture*, or a *Decoction* of the *Bark*, answer full as well, nay better, as causing much less *Oppression* on the *Breast*. — I now also used a *Kind of Resin* of the *Bark*, made with *Spirit of Wine*, which I much prefer to the common *Extract*, as it fits much lighter on the *Stomach*, and keeps much better; and therefore I think is more proper for an *officinal Medicine*.

However improper *Purging* might be at the *Begining* of this *Distemper*; gentle, easy *Cathartics*, as *Rhubarb*, *Manna*, &c. were necessary at the *End* to carry off the putrid *Collu-vies* of the *Intestines*, which otherwise protracted the feverish *Heats*, and occasioned great *Weakness*, *Want of Appetite*, tumid *Bellies*, and great *Obstructions* of the *Glands*;  
nay



nay I was often obliged to give repeated Doses of *Calomel* to carry off the Swellings of the parotid and maxillary Glands, which otherwise frequently remained a long Time much swoln and indurated, and, at length, sometimes suppurated: — Indeed I several Times found it necessary to rub them with a *Mercurial Unguent* before I could dissolve the Tumours; *Calomel* was also further useful in destroying the *Worms*, with which a vast Number were at this Time especially troubled. — But in general after a Purge, or two, the Sick soon recovered a keen Appetite, Strength and Spirits: Many however required frequent Purgings, a Continuance of the *Bark*, *Æthiops mineral*, &c. for a considerable Time, and then a Course of Asses-milk, and an open Country-Air to prevent a wasting Hectic; of which some died  
eight,

eight, or ten, Weeks, after the Disease first seized them.

This was undoubtedly a *Fever* of the *malignant, pestilential Kind*, in which the Blood became highly acrimonious, dissolved, and putrescent. That it was very greatly contagious no one doubts, as it very often infected whole Families, especially the younger Persons. — And that this Contagion generated a very great Degree of Acrimony in the Blood is most evident from the History of the Disease. — I have elsewhere noted that Contagion acts in the Blood as Acrimony: Perhaps the *contagious Miasmata* are only the highly exalted *Salino-sulphureous* Particles and Vapours that exhale from the diseased infecting Body.— It is well known the Stench of putrid Carcasses, gangrened Limbs, the polluted, stinking Air of Jails, &c. destroy the *Crisis* of the Blood, and bring on malignant,



nant, pestilential Fevers ; just as the putrid Sanies of a gangrened Limb, absorbed into the Blood, brings on a Fever of the same Kind. — It is certain the *pestilential Effluvia* in the true Plague bring on the most healthy, in a very few Hours, a putrid Dissolution and gangrenous Disposition of the Blood — and truly this malignant Sore-Throat was in some Cases found very little inferior to it in Virulence, not only the Fauces, but the Lungs, Intestines, &c. having appeared gangrenous on Dissections, and the whole Mass of Blood turned into a putrid Gore. — That an exceeding small Quantity of morbid Matter will infect the whole Mass of Blood is most certain from the Experiment of inoculating the Small-pox, in which it is found, that very much less than a Grain of the variolous Matter is fully sufficient to bring on that Distemper ; nor is that sur-

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prizing when we too well know what dreadful Effects arise from the minutest Quantity imaginable of the Virus of a Viper, or mad Dog.

Though this malignant ulcerous Squinzey seemed to be a *Disease sui Generis*, yet it certainly had a very great Resemblance of the *Febris anginosa*, which I formerly described in my *first Volume de Aëre & Morbis Epidemicis*; and it is pretty remarkable, that such a Kind of Fever now also greatly prevailed up and down this Part of the Country; but indeed the anginose Fever had very much more of an inflammatory Nature than the malignant Sore-Throat now treated of, and the Blood was commonly found much more dense and viscid in the former than in the latter, and of Course would much better admit of Bleeding.—But in Truth it may be in this, as in many other epidemic Disorders, particularly



larly the Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, &c.—the general Disease is greatly diversified by the particular Constitution of the Patients.—Thus the variolous Contagion in one of strong elastic Fibres, and a very viscid dense Blood, brings on a very high inflammatory Fever,—in another of weak, lax Fibres, and a loose dissolved Blood, a low, putrid, nervous Fever, not sufficient to protrude the Pustules in a kindly Manner, much less to bring them to a laudable Maturation.—In a Word, the high-inflammatory Small-pox differ as much, or more, from the low malignant Kind, as the *Febris anginosa* from the *pestilential ulcerous Sore-Throat*. — How greatly doth the Scarlet Fever, described by *Morton*, differ from that mentioned by *Sydenham*? — And indeed, although the same specific Contagion always produces the same specific Disease,

yet it greatly differs in different Persons, and is to be treated accordingly. — There were certainly some of these ulcerous Sore-Throats with a pretty smart Fever, that bore Bleeding at the Beginning with Advantage, and a much cooler Regimen was necessary in some than in others, — nay I was obliged in several Cases to give Nitre with the Diaphoretics. — But I must confess, in general, much warmer Medicines were necessary in this than in most other Fevers; and that too sometimes when the Heat was very considerable, otherwise the Pulse would sink surprizingly, and an astonishing Anxiety, and Oppression, immediately succeeded. — I have really been obliged to give such warm *Alexipharmacs* in this Distemper (and that too many Times to very young Persons) as nothing but repeated Experience could have induced me to  
order;



order; as *Saffron*, *Camphire*, *Pulv. Contrayerv. Confect. Cardiac. Theriac. Andromach.* warm Cyder, mulled Wine and Water, *Tinct. Cortic. Alexipharmac.* &c. and this with a Success that was well known, and justified the Practice.

The Word *Fever*, as promiscuously used in the Practice of Physic, is not a little vague and undetermined.— There are some Disorders, that pass under that general Name, which are best cured even by raising the Fever, to instance only in some Quartan Agues and low, nervous Fevers.— And the malignant Squinzezy, here described, is another Species of Fever, which evidently proves that all acute Diseases are not to be treated merely with Evacuations, and cooling Medicines — proper Dilution is unquestionably useful in all Fevers, but certainly some require more than *Barley-water* and *Limon-*

*ade.*—But I have already said several Things on this Head in my *Essay on Fevers*; and shall at present only add a Word or two on the Use of *volatile alcalious Salts* in Fevers of the putrid pestilential, or petechial Kind; in which I fear they are too often very improperly administered.

And here I must observe, that, in all Fevers of this Nature, the Blood is always found too much broken and dissolved, and at length becomes highly acrimonious, and as it were sanious and putrid. Whatever therefore tends to promote the Acrimony and Dissolution of the Blood must be very apt to bring on such Fevers, and encrease their Malignity, when they happen; but volatile alcalious Salts do both, in an eminent Degree; for though they may retard the Putrefaction of the Flesh of Animals, and even in some Measure of the Blood, out of the  
Body



Body (and so will *Arsenic*, or *Sublimate-corrosive*) yet mixed with the Blood, whilst actually under the Power of Circulation and the *Vis Vitæ*, they certainly hasten its Dissolution, and consequent Putrefaction; even mixed with the Blood out of the Body, or rather as it runs from the Vein, they quite destroy the Texture of the Blood-globules, nearly in the same Manner as the Poison of a Viper by dissolving the *Copula*, or Cohæsion of the component Particles; and the Blood of the most Robust (nay even the most buffy Blood of Horses, as I have often tried) thus managed never concretes, as usual, into a solid *Crassamentum*, and throws off its *Serum*, but remains ever after a loose, dissolved Gore, or Sanies.—Now let me farther observe, that when these volatile alcalious Salts (or Spirits) are taken in large Quantities, and frequently,

quently, even by Persons in Health, they are well known to bring on feverish Heats, Hæmorrhages, spongy bleeding Gums, stinking Breath, rank Urine, &c. Symptoms that sufficiently indicate a beginning Dissolution, and Putridity of the Blood.

Moreover these broken, dissolved Blood-globules are very apt to enter into the serous and lymphatic Arteries, and there, not finding a free Passage through their Ramifications, stagnate and corrupt, and at length even corrode these exceeding tender Vessels, particularly when saturated with acrimonious Salts, which at the same Time also greatly irritate these very minute Canals, encrease the Heat, and so cause a more speedy Corruption both of the Humours and Vessels; and when the putrid *Lymph* and *Serum* is absorbed into the Mass of Blood, it greatly hastens the general Corruption.



Volatile alcalious Salts, even applied externally to the Skin, very speedily corrode and ulcerate, and it is certainly Fact, that given internally they heat vastly more, Quantity for Quantity, than the warmest *vegetable Alexipharmacks*. — And that, I think, not so much by encreasing the projectile Force, and Circulation, of the Blood, as by causing an intestine Motion and Efferescence in it; for, by the most accurate Experiments, it is found that Solutions of the volatile alkaline Salts weaken the Tone of the Fibres, and Power of the Vessels, and consequently the *Momentum of the Blood* in the regular Course of Circulation. — And we eventually find, that, when the Blood abounds with very acrid Salts, the Pulse becomes weak, small, quick and fluttering, as in the highly scorbutic, and that corrupt, acrimonious State of Blood, which  
brings

brings on the putrid Fever, antecedent to some Mortifications *ab interna Causâ*, as they call it; in both which the Powers of Nature sink greatly, and particularly the Strength of the arterial Vibrations, tho' they may encrease in Quickness, to compensate for the Want of that natural Vigour, and Fulness, which is observed in a free and firm Pulsation of an Artery duly filled with Blood, and properly actuated.—The extraordinary Bigness and Flaccidity of the Heart, that is commonly noted in scorbutic and pestilential Cases, are owing to the Weakness and great Relaxation of its muscular Fibres.—That peculiar Kind of biting Heat, that we commonly feel on the Skin of Persons labouring under putrid, malignant Fevers, seems to arise from the Abundance of acrid Salts and Sulphurs in the Blood, and its intestine Motion, and not from its increased



creased projectile Force; for, on first touching the Skin, the Heat seems very little, if at all, above the natural, but, by continuing the Finger a longer Time on it, you are sensible of a disagreeable Scalding in it, which Sensation even remains in the Finger for some small Time after you have quite removed it from the sick Person: This *Doct̃or Pringle* hath judiciously noted in his excellent *Treatise on the Diseases of the Army*; and *Galen*, as he candidly observes, long before him.—This *Monsieur Quesnay* calls *la Chaleur d' Acrimonie*, and very justly distinguishes it from *la Chaleur d' Inflammation*.—The Sensation, in Truth, is as different as touching a very hot Piece of dry Wood, and dipping your Finger into tepid Spirit of Hartshorn.—And I think this Observation evidently proves the Abundance of acrimonious Salts thrown off by Perspiration

piration in these very putrid Fevers. That peculiar burning Heat also, which the Sick often feel within, in such Diseases, tho' the external Parts of the Body are actually cold, probably arises from the same Cause.— And I cannot but think the Heat, observable in Fevers, preceding and attending Mortifications *ab internâ Causâ*, is generated by the Acrimony and intestine Motion of the Humours; not certainly from a rapid projectile Motion, for the Pulse is then always found weak and small, tho' quick. The surprizingly speedy and great Stench, Swelling, and famous Hæmorrhages from all the Outlets of the Bodies of such as die in putrid, malignant Fevers, are Arguments of the great intestine Motion, Rarefaction, and Acrimony of the Humours.—This was the Case commonly of those that died of the malignant, anginose Fever above described.

I have



I have known the whole Body swell vastly, even to the Ends of the Fingers and Toes, with a cadaverous Lividity, tho' almost quite cold, and an intolerable Stench even before the Person was actually dead, Blood issuing, at the same Time, from the Ears, Nose, Mouth, and Guts; and this too where the Pulse had been very weak and small, tho' exceeding quick, from the very Beginning.— Was not this, from much Air, generated in the Blood by the intestine Motion, Heat, and Putridity, which are well known to generate Air? Is not the Emphysema, observable in some Sphacelations, from the same Cause?

But to proceed, if we consider the Generation and Nature of animal Salts, perhaps we shall see a little further into this Matter.—The strongest vegetable Acids, we take in with our Food, are by the *Vis Vitæ*  
soon

soon changed into a *neutral*, or a Kind of *ammoniacal Salts*, and by being longer and longer exposed to the Action of the Vessels, and Heat of the Blood, they more and more approach to an alkaline Nature, and at length would become actually alkaline, were they not diluted, washed off, and corrected by acescent Drink and Diet.—A Person that lives on nothing but mere Water, and Flesh or Fish, without any Thing either acid or acescent, soon contracts a very great Rankness in all his Humours; he grows feverish, and at length his Blood runs into a State of Putrefaction. — The Blood of those that die of Famine becomes highly acrimonious, which begets Fever, Frenzy, and such a Degree of Putrefaction, as is utterly destructive of the vital Principles. A very melancholy Instance of which I once met with in a poor Gentleman, who obsti-



obstinately starved himself to Death, and would not, for many Days, either by Force or Persuasion, swallow any Kind of Food, or a Drop of Liquor.—He soon grew feverish, flushed in his Face, and very hot in his Head; his Pulse was small, but very quick; in four or five Days his Breath became exceedingly offensive, his Lips dry, black, parched, his Teeth and Mouth foul, black, bloody, his Urine (when it could be saved) vastly high coloured, and stinking, as much as if it had been kept a Month; at length he trembled continually, could not stand, much less walk, raved and dozed alternately, fell into convulsive Agonies frequently, in which he sometimes sweated pretty much about the Head and Breast, though his Extremities were quite cold, pale, and shrivelled; the Sweat was of a very dark yellow Colour, and of a most nauseous Stench.

It

It is certain also, that, if the animal Salts are not duly and constantly carried off by Urine, they are highly destructive, as in *Ischuries*, for they continually advance more and more to an alkaline State.—It is not so much from an encreased Quantity, as the Acrimony of the Juices, that an obstinate Suppression of Urine becomes fatal; for I have known it very soon so, where the Patient hath had very large Discharges by Sweat and Stool during the whole Time of the Suppression; particularly I remember, many Years ago, a *renal Ischury* fatal to a corpulent Lady the eleventh Day from the Stoppage, though she was twice bled very largely, and kept purging the whole Time, and consequently did not die from a Redundance of Humours.—She made not a Drop of Urine from the Time of her Seizure to her Death, though she took  
very



very largely of *Cantharides* in Substance and Tincture, as well as many other Medicines, particularly large Doses of *Calomel*. Indeed, although I have frequently known *Cantharides* given with very good Effect in *Ischuries*, yet if they do not answer speedily, but are long continued in large Quantities, I fear they co-operate with the acrid Salts, and hasten the Death of the Patient, by bringing on a Delirium and Convulsions, as I have had the Misfortune to see more than once.

But to the Point in Hand.—The Formation of volatile alkaline Salts in the Body seems not much unlike the Production of them out of the Body. — Let any Kind of green Plant, even the most acid, be pressed together in a large Heap, it soon begins to heat, and gradually grows more and more hot (to such an intense

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tense Degree at length, if the Quantity be very large, as to break out into an actual Flame) and this Effervescence soon turns the whole Mass putrid, and the acid and essential Salts of the Plant into volatile Alcalies, which may be distilled from the putrid Mass, and are in no Respect essentially different from the volatile alcaly Salts raised from animal Substances; both the one and the other are ultimately the Effects of Heat and Motion on the Salts of Vegetables, and the longer, and stronger, these are acted upon by the Force and Heat of our Solids and Fluids, so much the more are they exalted to an alkaline State, in which they are absolutely unfit for the common Uses of Life; nay, exceedingly destructive, if they greatly abound, as in very putrid, pestilential, and petechial Fevers they unquestionably



questionably do ; and therefore, I think, in such Cases, the Exhibition of volatile alcalious Salts to the Sick is adding Fuel to the Fire, for they certainly dissolve or break the Globules of the Blood, and thence more speedily bring on a general Putrefaction.—These Salts, even applied externally to the Skin, soon excite a gangrænous Ulcer ; and, when the Blood is largely stocked with them, it becomes a Kind of fiery Lixivium, which is greatly destructive of the *nervous Fibrillæ*, and *ultima Vascula*.—And this indeed would be more certainly, frequently, and speedily the Case than it is, if the plentiful Use of Acids, Diluents, and soft mucilaginous Things, in Drink and Diet, did not prevent it, by washing off and correcting them ; as we see Juice of Lemon and Vinegar quite take off their Acrimony ;

indeed thus managed they are, in many Diseases, turned into very useful Medicines.

Before I conclude, I beg Leave to insert the following extraordinary Case, as it is not altogether foreign to the Purpose.

I had lately under my Care a Gentleman of Fortune and Family, who so habituated himself to the Use of vast Quantities of the *volatile Salts*, that Ladies commonly smell to, that at length he would eat them, in a very astonishing Manner, as other People eat *sugared Carraway Seeds*.

—A Δριμυφαγεία with a Vengeance!  
 —The Consequence soon was, that he brought on a hectic Fever, vast Hæmorrhages from the Intestines, Nose, and Gums, every one of his Teeth dropped out, and he could eat nothing solid; he wasted vastly in his Flesh, and his Muscles be-  
 came



came as soft and flabby as those of a new-born Infant ; and broke out all over his Body in Pustules, which itched most intolerably, so that he scratched himself continually, and tore his Skin with his Nails in a very shocking Manner ; his Urine was always excessively high coloured, turbid, and very foetid.— He was at last, with great Difficulty, persuaded to leave this pernicious Custom, but he had so effectually ruined his Constitution, that, though he rubbed on in a very miserable Manner for several Months, he died tabid, and in the highest Degree of a *Marasmus* ;—and I am persuaded, he would have died much sooner, had he not constantly drank very freely of the most fine and generous Wines, and daily used large Quantities of Asses-milk, and antiscorbutic Juices well acidulated with  
Juice

Juice of Seville-oranges, Lemons,  
&c.

But, after all, I am so far from thinking the *volatile Alcaly-salts* should be struck out of the *Materia Medica*, and condemning their Use in all Cases, that I am very certain they may be given with great Advantage in very many.—But, in Truth, I still except those above-mentioned.

**F I N I S.**

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**E R R A T A.**

Page 16, Line 5, for *that* read *the*.—Page 39, Line 24, for *torrified* read *torrefied*.—Page 40, Line 23, for *Alexiter*. read *Alexeter*.













